

APPENDIX 2 PUBLIC INFORMATION

PRIMARY AGENCY:	Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division
SUPPORT AGENCIES:	Washington State Office of the Attorney General Washington State Department of Agriculture Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development Washington State Department of Corrections Washington State Department of Ecology Washington State Department of Employment Security Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Washington State Department of General Administration Washington State Department of Health Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Washington State Department of Licensing Washington State Liquor Control Board Washington State Military Department National Guard Washington State Department of Natural Resources Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Washington State Patrol Washington State Department of Retirement Services Washington State Office of the Secretary of State Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction Washington State Department of Transportation Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs American Red Cross Federal Emergency Management Agency

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Appendix is to establish uniform policies for the effective development, coordination, and dissemination of information to the public in case of natural or technological (human-caused) emergencies or disasters. This Appendix has been prepared to be consistent with the Federal Response Plan format for emergencies and disasters. For further information about hazard-specific radiological and chemical hazards, see Appendix 2, Tab A - Public Information and Public Education for Radiological and Chemical Hazards.

B. SCOPE

Washington State emergency public information actions before, during, and following any emergency will be determined by the severity of the emergency as declared by involved jurisdictions, state agencies, or as perceived by the public. A significant emergency public information response will involve many Washington State, county, and city agencies. This appendix describes those agencies and their responsibilities.

II. POLICIES

A. Authorities

See Basic Plan.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

This Appendix provides mission assignments to those departments and jurisdictions as agreed upon by those entities.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

A natural or technological (human-caused) emergency or disaster may occur at any time.

B. Assumptions

1. An event has occurred, or public perception is such that people believe they have been placed in danger by a natural or technologically-caused emergency or disaster.
2. The event requires responding agencies to provide instructions and information to the public about the incident and actions people should take to save and protect lives, property, economy, and the environment. Responding agencies also would provide information to reduce public concerns about the incident and response activities.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Local jurisdictions are responsible for providing its citizens with information on the incident and what immediate protective actions they should take, such as taking shelter or evacuating.
2. State agencies are responsible for providing the public with information about the incident, intermediate protective actions designed to further

save lives, protect property, the economy, and the environment, as well as long-term recovery actions to restore the affected community, as nearly as possible to its pre-incident condition.

B. Information Support Structure

1. Local Jurisdiction Information Support Structure

The local jurisdiction should establish a public information office to provide information and instructions to its citizens before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. This office should coordinate its emergency public information actions with the state.

2. State Information Support Structure

- a. The Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) Public Information Officer (PIO) will coordinate the management of the state's emergency public information response through all phases of natural or technological events. This will be accomplished in conjunction and collaboration with the Governor's Communications Director and the Military Department's Public Affairs Officer.
- b. State emergency public information will be coordinated through the Washington Emergency Information Center (WEIC), a part of the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). If a Joint Information Center (JIC) is established, state-level emergency public information also will be provided to the media and the public through that facility. The state will assist with locating and managing the operation of such a center.
- c. State agencies with specific Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) or other response roles, for example in a chemical or radiological emergency, will provide staff support for the state's emergency public information efforts. This support will be provided when requested by the Governor's Communications Director and in accordance with any site-specific emergency plans and the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP).

3. Federal Information Support Structure

- a. The state will coordinate with federal agencies to provide federal-level information to the public following a natural or technological emergency or disaster, as deemed necessary.
- b. The federal government will assist with locating and managing the operations of a JIC, if requested.

C. Notification

Local jurisdictions, state agencies, and other emergency response organizations will be notified by the state EMD when an emergency or disaster has occurred that requires an emergency public information response request to support the state EOC or the WEIC.

D. Emergency Management Activities

All Pertinent Agencies:

1. Identify and train appropriate staff to implement the public information responsibilities outlined in this plan and appendix.
2. Prepare and coordinate public information resource materials to be used for an emergency or disaster.
3. Participate in a coordinated program to educate the public about hazards caused by emergencies or disasters, and the actions people may be asked to take to protect themselves, their property, and the environment.
4. Respond to all hazards and to hazard-specific incidents involving releases from the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Columbia Generating Station, and the facilities of the U.S. Department of Energy on the Hanford Site, in accordance with emergency response plans and procedures for each site and the Washington State CEMP.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES**A. Primary Agency****Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division**

1. Establishes the WEIC as a means to provide instructions and information to the public about a natural emergency or disaster, or hazard-specific chemical or radiological incident. The WEIC will provide information to the public, media, and appropriate state elected officials, legislators and members of Congress who represent areas affected by the emergency or disaster. This will be done in cooperation and collaboration with the Governor's Communications Director.
2. Coordinates the management of the state's emergency public information response through all phases of an emergency or disaster. This will be done in cooperation and collaboration with the Governor's Communications Director.
3. Provides information on the emergency or disaster, its impact on the state, state response actions, and agency support being provided to local jurisdictions and state response agencies. This will be done in cooperation and collaboration with the Governor's Communications Director.

4. Provides information on recovery programs designed to return the affected community, as nearly as possible, to its pre-incident condition. This will be done in cooperation and collaboration with the Governor's Communications Director.

B. Support Agencies

1. State Agencies

As listed in the CEMP Basic Plan, the following Washington State agencies have committed to providing general public information officer support, as requested, to the Office of the Governor, the state EMD, the state EOC, or the lead state agency during response and recovery activities, should an emergency, disaster, or hazard-specific incident occur:

Office of the Attorney General
 Department of Agriculture
 Board of Community and Technical Colleges
 Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
 Department of Corrections
 Department of Ecology
 Department of Employment Security
 Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Department of General Administration
 Department of Health
 Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
 Office of the Insurance Commissioner
 Department of Labor and Industries
 Department of Licensing
 Liquor Control Board
 Military Department - National Guard
 Department of Natural Resources
 Parks and Recreation Commission
 Washington State Patrol
 Department of Retirement Services
 Office of the Secretary of State
 Department of Social and Health Services
 Superintendent of Public Instruction
 Department of Transportation
 Utilities and Transportation Commission
 Department of Veterans' Affairs

2. American Red Cross

Provides information on location of shelters or assistance centers, and assistance being provided to people affected by an emergency, disaster, chemical or radiological incident.

3. Federal Emergency Management Agency

- a. Coordinates federal-level information to the public following a natural or technological emergency or disaster.
- b. Assists with locating and managing the operations of a JIC, if requested.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Resource requirements are identified in supporting plans and procedures.

VII. REFERENCES

See Appendix 3, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, References.

IX. APPENDIX

Appendix 2, Tab A, Public Information and Public Education for Radiological and Chemical Hazards.